(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the present status of major transmission and distribution projects and they are at what stages of completion against the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The associated transmission system for evacuation of power from generation projects is firmed up while according investment approval for the generation projects. Investment in Transmission and Distribution network at the National, regional and state level is also required for system improvement, which is not necessarily linked with evacuation of power from specific generation projects. The ratio of investment on generation compared to that on transmission and distribution (including rural electrification) is much below the ideal ratio of 1:1. At the end of the Eighth Plan the ratio was 1:0.53 and the estimated ratio at the end of Ninth Plan will be 1:0.69. The lack of investment is mainly due to inability on the part of SEBs/ EDs to raise resources due to poor financial health of the SEBs/EDs.

(c) The status of major transmission projects programmed for construction during 1999-2000 is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in T&D Loss

2232. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the technical loss i.e. transmission and distribution loss in power has increased since 1996-97 thereby neutralising the impact of the increase in generation of power since then;

(b) if so, what was the increase in the generation of power in the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and what was the rate of technical loss during these years; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to the figures reported by SEBs/Electricity Departments/Power Utilities, the T&D losses during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 on all India basis were 24.53% and 24.44% (tentative) respectively.

However, the States which have undertaken restructuring have reported T&D losses varying from 40 to 51%. The loss can be classified under two broad categories; namely, technical loss and commercial loss. The technical losses are inherent in the system and can be reduced by better design of lines, relocation of distribution transformers and installation of capacitors. The Commercial losses are due to theft of energy, use of defective meters and un-metered supply. The losses due to theft and pilferage of energy are presently camouflaged under T&D losses.

(b) The increase in generation of Power in the years and percentage T&D losses are as given below:—

Year	Achievement		T&D Losses
	Generation (BU)	Growth	
1996-97	394.488	3.8	24.53
1997-98	420.622	6.6	24.44 (tentative)
1998-99	448.380	6.6	N.A.

It is not possible to segregate the technical and commercial losses separately.

(c) The Central Electricity Authority had issued comprehensive guidelines in July, 1991 to the SEBs and Electricity Department for reduction of T&D losses. The commercial losses including theft of energy can be effectively prevented by energy auditing at sub-station level, electronic and remote control metering and pre-paid card metering at the consumer end.

Under the Accelerated Power Development Programme, it is proposed to provide funds to the State Governments for implementing specific projects for improving the sub-transmission and distribution system including installation of state-of-the-art electronic metering system.

In the Conference of power Ministers which was held on 26.2.2000, the State/UT Governments have resolved to undertake energy auditing at all levels and to install meters for all consumers by December, 2001. With the adoption of these measures, sit will be possible to substantially reduce losses arising due to power theft.